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Subject: Kiev Univ. Professor

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Volodymyr Mykhaylovych ORLOV of Dept. of Ukrainian History, Kiev University, Volodymtrska 60, Kiev, USSR. He is a professor and doctor of history. Teaches at Kiev U. He is married, and has two children of pre-college age. He is about 5'4" tall, his lower jaw is protruding a little, and he seemed to limp a little. He is slightly built and has dark blond hair.

Orlov speaks Ukrainian very well, but it was not determined what his nationality is.

Orlov was in Italy with a group of Soviet university professors. When the conversation took place another member of the group was also present: a prof. Kozlov, who teaches law at Moscow U. It was through Kozlov that Source met Orlov. The meeting took place in Villa delle Rose hotel at Vicenza 5 in Rome -- the place where Soviet tourists often stay.

#### Soviet Union (general)

Orlov observed that life in the USSR moves with reality, and reality does not stand still. There are no dogmas in the Sov. Union. Lenin's teachings are only that, and not a dogma. Errors have been made, particularly under Stalin, and criticism of Stalin has been exaggerated -- he also did some positive things (the War was won when he was in power), and then Stalin was not the only villain. For some of the wrongdoings attributed to him, others were responsible, such as Beria, for instance.

#### Russification

It is not true, said Orlov, that in Kiev only Russian is spoken. On the contrary, in trolleybuses, on the streets, in hotels and in stores one can hear Ukrainian. In the ministry of education, everyone from the elevator operator up to the minister speaks Ukrainian. Party meetings are held in Ukrainian. Orlov said that he himself lectures only in Ukrainian. But he added that in Lviv University, even more lectures than in Kiev are given in Ukrainian.

He was not aware of the campaign led by the newspaper Literaturna Ukrayina about the small printings of Ukrainian books, but quickly used

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this information to say, "You see, we can freely write about such things."

He also mentioned the magnificent celebrations of the Shevchenko jubilee in Ukraine and other Soviet republics, about the Shevchenko statue in Moscow, and said that he also knew about the Shevchenko statue in Washington and the letter of the 34 Ukrainian cultural leaders to the Shevchenko Memorial Committee in Washington.

Russians in Ukraine, he said, like both Ukrainian language and culture. There are some 7,000,000 Russians in Ukraine, just as there are many Ukrainians in the RSFSR. The latter, he said, do not become Russianized, but cultivate their language, customs, and folklore. He compared these people to Ukrainians in Canada, who also remain Ukrainian, even though they live in a different country.

More Russians than Ukrainians have been resettled to Virgin Lands, said Orlov. In Ukraine, of the 46,000,000 inhabitants, at least 35,000,000 are Ukrainians. The rest are made up of 86 other nationalities.

Orlov explained the relatively small number of Ukrainians in Ukraine by the following: deportation of millions of Ukrainians into Germany (where 4.5 million of them died); exiling of some into Siberia, but this number is exaggerated in the West, he said. (Mostly the leading cadres were exiled, not the masses). He also admitted that millions died in the 1933 famine, and asked what the estimates of this number are. When told that it is estimated at between 5,000,000 and more, Orlov did not argue, saying that he does not have the exact data.

#### Merging of Nations

Orlov said at one point that this thesis is considered to be in error, but later said that as a Marxist he considers the merging of nations as inevitable. He explained that this single nation in the future would be neither Ukrainian nor Russian.

#### Ukrainian Separatism

Orlov feels that Ukraine gains through membership in the USSR. It does not have to utilize the current Chinese-Soviet rift for its own ends. He said that for Ukrainian people political independence plays a minor role. Economically, Ukraine is now highly developed, especially as compared with its state in 1913.

He said he did not think Ukraine needs its own diplomatic representatives abroad, but admitted that more ~~m~~ could be done to represent Ukraine in the cultural sphere

#### Ukrainian Underground.

Orlov insisted that the underground movement did not have the support of the population. "Banderivtsi", he said, killed Ukrainians, hung them, and tortured them, then he asked rhetorically: "Where are Petlyura, Bandera and Melnyk today?"

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When told that Bandera was assassinated by Stashynskyy on Shelepin's orders, Orlov dropped the subject, but later again mentioned Petlyura, calling him "garbage" etc. Central Rada, he said, was against the Ukrainian people: it shot Ukrainians in Kiev.

#### Ukrainian Poets

Orlov was surprised to hear that young Ukrainians abroad study Soviet Ukrainian literature, including the works of Tychyna, Rylskyy, Malyshko, Sosyura and others. When told that they also read the younger poets like Vinhrabovskyy, Drach and Kostenko, Orlov said those are no poets, although some of them have talent.

#### School System

This is how Orlov explained the school system in Ukraine:

Up to the age of seven, children either stay home or attend kindergarten. At seven they enter the 10-year school. (It used to last 11 years, but now it's back to 10).

After completing the 10-year school, those that want to go into the sciences, enter the universities, but those that want to go into humanities, have to go to work first: in factories or on collective farms. Only then can they go to college.

University usually takes five years, but medicine takes six. In the final year a student already knows where he will work. Those that want to specialize, or devote their life to research, spend three more years in school and work on the dissertation. After they defend the dissertation, they become candidates. To get a PhD, a candidate has to submit an original piece of work, which will add something new to the scholarship.

A university professor, he said, receives 500 rubles a month.

#### Tourism

Orlov explained that tourism into the USSR is welcome. He said that if tourists are not allowed to go into certain parts of the Soviet Union, it must be because these parts are designated as defence ~~obj~~ areas, "such as some NATO bases in Italy are off-limits to us".

Soviet citizens are free to travel abroad, he said, but the reason they don't do it to any great extent is that it costs money. This is why they usually go only when their collective decides that they should go. Then, too, the collective pays for the trip. He said their trip to Italy, for example, was entirely paid by someone else.

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Miscellaneous

There is freedom of speech in Ukraine, to the extent that people are free to talk among themselves on any possible topic, "just as we are doing here now," without fear of the police or the KGB. He said even persons who would talk about the independence of Ukraine from Moscow in Ukraine, would have nothing to fear.

He said he would like to receive some Ukrainian books from Source, and readily gave his address, but not his home address. He explained it would be better to send them to his university address.

Earlier, when Orlov said that Hrushevsky's historiography is not scholarly, Source told him that Mykola Chubaty has a book out, entitled: "Knyazha Rus-Ukrayina i vynyknennya trokh slovyans'kykh natsiy." Orlov said he would like to have that book.

Orlov said he would gladly read the books, but ~~said~~ added, they would not change his mind.

The meeting lasted from 10 to 12:30 p.m.

The group was in Italy on the invitation by a Prof. Lombardo Radice, a Communist, and a professor of mathematics.

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